

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-20 and cancel claims 21-35 without prejudice such that the pending claims read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An SRD~~ A Spin Rinse Dryer, comprising:
 - a substrate support adapted to hold and rotate a substrate;
 - a source of fluid adapted to supply fluid to a surface of a substrate positioned on the substrate support; and
 - a shield positioned to receive fluid displaced from a substrate rotating on the substrate support, and comprising a substrate-facing surface at least a portion of which has a particle-blasted finish.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 1, wherein the particle-blasted finish has a hydrophilic characteristic.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 2, wherein the substrate support holds and rotates the substrate in a vertical orientation.
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 3, wherein at least part of the shield is at a higher elevation than the substrate support.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 4, wherein at least part of the particle-blasted finish is above the substrate when the substrate is held and rotated by the substrate support.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 4, wherein the shield is movable between a first position in which at least part of the shield is above the substrate when the substrate is held and rotated by the substrate support and a second position in which the shield does not obstruct placement of the substrate on the substrate support from a position above the substrate support.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 4, wherein the particle-blasted finish has a downwardly sloped cross section.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 7, wherein a top surface of the shield has a downwardly sloped cross section.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 1, wherein the shield comprises polycarbonate.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 9, wherein the shield is a unitary piece of molded polycarbonate.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 9, wherein the particle-blasted finish is a grit-blasted finish.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 1, wherein the shield is a unitary piece of molded polycarbonate.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 4, wherein the substrate-facing surface has surface features for directing fluid from an apex of the shield.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 4, wherein the substrate-facing surface has a plurality of channels configured to direct fluid circumferentially along the shield.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 4, wherein the particle-blasted finish has a downwardly sloped cross section and wherein the channels are configured to direct fluid along the downwardly sloped cross section.

16. (Currently Amended) A vertical ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer, comprising:

- a substrate support adapted to hold and rotate a vertically oriented substrate;

- a source of fluid adapted to supply fluid to the surface of a substrate positioned on the substrate support; and

- a shield system comprising a plurality of vertically and horizontally staggered shields positioned to receive fluid flung from a substrate rotating on the substrate support, at least one of the shields having a substrate-facing surface that has a particle-blasted finish.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 16, wherein the plurality of shields includes:

- a main shield wherein the substrate-facing surface is angled from a higher elevation closest to a first side of the substrate to a lower elevation closest to a second side of the

substrate so that the fluid flows therealong to a lower edge of the main shield;

a lower shield positioned at a lower elevation than the main shield, extending from a point beneath the main shield to a point beyond the lower edge of the main shield, and being angled from a higher elevation closest to the lower edge of the main shield, to a lower elevation farthest from the main shield; and

a higher shield positioned at a higher elevation than the main shield, extending from a point above the main shield to a point beyond the higher edge of the main shield and being angled from a lower elevation closest to the higher edge of the main shield, to a higher elevation farthest from the main shield.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the at least one particle-blasted finish has a hydrophilic characteristic.

19. (Currently Amended) A vertical ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer, comprising:

a substrate support adapted to hold and rotate a vertically oriented substrate;

a source of fluid adapted to supply fluid to the surface of a substrate positioned on the substrate support; and

a housing which encloses the substrate support, the housing having a top portion that has a slope adapted to cause fluid to flow therealong away from a region above the substrate support, the top portion having a lower surface that has a particle-blasted finish.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~SRD~~ Spin Rinse Dryer of claim 19, wherein at least a portion of the lower surface of the top portion has a hydrophilic characteristic.

21-35. (Canceled).